

## **Appendix B: Team Meetings and Public Participation**

Public participation was a key component of the strategic planning process for the Caribou County Mitigation Wildfire Plan (The Plan). The Plan integrates a cross-section of citizen and agency input that was gathered throughout the planning process. The Caribou County Wildfire Mitigation Team was formed to steer this planning process. The Team was comprised of knowledgeable individuals representing the major land stakeholders in the county, including:

- Caribou County Commissioners
- Caribou County Planning and Zoning
- Caribou County Emergency Services
- Caribou County Volunteer Fire Department Chiefs
- Idaho Bureau of Disaster Services
- Idaho Department of Lands
- Idaho Fish and Game
- County Residents and Land owners
- USDI, Bureau of Land Management, Upper Snake River District
- USDA-Forest Service, Caribou National Forests

Public participation was accomplished by distribution of questionnaires that address wildfire concerns and suggestions, participation by homeowners associations at the team leader level.

## **Wildfire Questionnaire Used For Public Input.**

### **Community Questionnaire Wildfire Hazard and Fire Safe Education Programs Caribou County, Idaho**

To reduce the risk of wildfires, Caribou County is initiating a County Wide Wildfire Mitigation Plan. The plan seeks to reduce the threat of wildfire through risk assessment and hazard identification. Mitigation measure will include but are not limited to wildfire prevention and reduction of fuels, increasing fire protection capabilities of communities, and public education. The goal of the program is to decrease the chances of wildfire spreading from public lands onto private or community lands and vice-versa. You can help in this County-wide effort by providing information and suggestions on potential assessment and mitigation efforts. This questionnaire is being conducted on behalf of the Caribou County Commissioners by W.H. West & Associates (5963 W. Broadway, Idaho Falls, ID 83402).

You may either mail this questionnaire to the address provided; or you may drop it off at the Caribou County EMS building (40 West Center, P.O. Box 775, Soda Springs, ID 83276), or at your local fire department.

Fold on dotted lines, staple and apply stamp.

W.H. West & Associates  
5963 W. Broadway  
Idaho Falls, ID 83402

Place  
Stamp  
Here

Caribou County Wildfire Mitigation Plan  
W.H. West & Associates  
5963 W. Broadway  
Idaho Falls, ID 83402

1. What town or community do you live in or closest to? \_\_\_\_\_

2. How great a risk do you think wildfires pose to your residence?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. What areas around your community do you think are an extreme fire hazard and pose a wildfire risk to homes or property?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. What do you think might be the best way to mitigate, or reduce this hazard?

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5. Do you know of any recent actions taken by the community, the county, etc., to reduce the risk of wildland fires or to protect residents from wildfires spreading from public land to private?

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6. Have there been recent fire reduction education programs in your community? If so, what was the nature of the projects?

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Who sponsored them and when?

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7. Besides residences and community buildings, are there other locations or properties (may or may not be a structure) that have a high environmental, cultural, or economic value and should be a priority for fire risk reduction?

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8. Do you think your community is prepared to combat wildland-urban interface fires?

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If not, what do you think could be done to improve your town's/ subdivision's wildland-urban interface firefighting capabilities?

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If we have questions or would like more information, can we contact you?

Name:

Address:

Phone:

***Thank you for your time and your ideas!***

**Community Questionnaire Wildfire Hazard and Fire Safe Education Programs  
Caribou County, Idaho**

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W.H. West & Associates  
5963 W. Broadway  
Idaho Falls, ID 83402



Caribou County Wildland Fire Mitigation Plan  
W.H. West & Associates  
5963 W. Broadway  
Idaho Falls, ID 83402

1. What town or community do you live in or closest to? Soda Springs
2. How great a risk do you think wildfires pose to your residence?  
Low house in middle of town
3. What areas around your community do you think are an extreme fire hazard and pose a wildfire risk to homes or property?  
Behind Smith River about Garbage, grass, tall weeds  
next to Bear river. Soil very dry comes near homes

4. What do you think might be the best way to mitigate, or reduce this hazard?  
cut Grass-dry brush for a fire line. Clean up  
garbage (old cars machines) where kids play or weeds grow tall
5. Do you know of any recent actions taken by the community, the county, etc., to reduce the risk of wildfire fires or to protect residents from wildfires spreading from public land to private?  
cut grass along road where cigarettes  
might start camp fire restrictions
6. Have there been recent fire reduction education programs in your community? If so, what was the nature of the projects?  
think of ~~it~~ not that I can

Who sponsored them and when?

7. Besides residences and community buildings, are there other locations or properties (may or may not be a structure) that have a high environmental, cultural, or economic value and should be a priority for fire risk reduction?  
Kelly park (lots of brush) Hopper Springs park

8. Do you think your community is prepared to combat wildland-urban interface fires?  
yes as much as funds probably allow

If not, what do you think could be done to improve your town's/subdivision's wildland-urban interface firefighting capabilities?

If we have questions or would like more information, can we contact you? yes

Name: Ben Jacobsen

Address: 380 Ashland Soda Springs Id. 83276

Phone: 547 4673

Thank you for your time and your ideas!

Community Questionnaire Wildfire Hazard and Fire Safe Education Programs  
Caribou County, Idaho

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Fold on dotted lines, staple and apply stamp.

W.H. West & Associates  
5963 W. Broadway  
Idaho Falls, ID 83402

Caribou County Wildland Fire Mitigation Plan  
W.H. West & Associates  
5963 W. Broadway  
Idaho Falls, ID 83402

83402+5421

1. What town or community do you live in or closest to? Soda Springs
2. How great a risk do you think wildfires pose to your residence?  
minimal risk
3. What areas around your community do you think are an extreme fire hazard and pose a wildfire risk to homes or property?  
near CRP fields

4. What do you think might be the best way to mitigate, or reduce this hazard?  
allow CRP ground to be burned in a controlled burn every couple years
5. Do you know of any recent actions taken by the community, the county, etc., to reduce the risk of wildland fires or to protect residents from wildfires spreading from public land to private?  
mowing along road sides  
spraying along road sides
6. Have there been recent fire reduction education programs in your community? If so, what was the nature of the projects?

Who sponsored them and where?

county / state

7. Besides residences and community buildings, are there other locations or properties (may or may not be a structure) that have a high environmental, cultural, or economic value and should be a priority for fire risk reduction?

8. Do you think your community is prepared to combat wildland-urban interface fires?

no. we need a community mobilization network to bring in volunteers to fight fires with equipment and to help neighbors with access of concern while maintaining good relations

If we have questions or would like more information, can we contact you?

Name: Adell Christman  
Address: 1141 Pioneer Dr  
Soda Springs Id  
Phone: 208 547 3866

Thank you for your time and your ideas!

## **News Releases**

### **Caribou County News Release**

**May 12, 2004**

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#### **Caribou County Wildfire Group Holds First Meeting**

The Caribou County Wildfire Mitigation Planning Group held its initial meeting in American Falls on May 11th. The objective of this diverse group is to formulate a County-wide Wildfire Mitigation Plan. The County-wide plan is required by FEMA to qualify for Federal assistance in wildfire mitigation projects.

Developing County-wide wildfire mitigation plans is an approach recommended by the Idaho Statewide Implementation Strategy for the National Fire Plan. This strategy was developed in 2002 by a statewide working group, and signed by the Governor, Idaho Department of Lands, the Idaho Fire Chiefs Association, and other federal and state officials. Designing the plans to satisfy FEMA grant requirements will lay the foundation to obtain project funds to assist Counties in reducing their exposure and risk of loss to wildfire. The mitigation plan will identify and profile wildland fire hazards, assess the county's vulnerability to identified hazards, and develop mitigation strategies for review by the County Commissioners.

Participants in the Caribou County Wildfire Mitigation Planning Group include: Caribou County Commissioners, Caribou County Planning and Zoning, Fire Chiefs from the volunteer fire departments throughout Caribou County, private land owners and home owners associations, the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Idaho Department of Lands, Idaho State Disaster Services and the Idaho Fish and Game.

The Caribou County Wildfire Mitigation Planning Group intends to meet regularly through September. Further information requests, questions, inputs or concerns on the project can be directed to Dennis Godfrey (547-2583).

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**Caribou County News Release**

**May 12, 2004**

## **Caribou County News Release**

**May 18, 2004**

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### **Caribou County Wildfire Mitigation Group to Hold Three Public Open Houses**

In conjunction with Safety Days celebration, the Caribou County Wildfire Mitigation Planning Group will hold three open houses across the county on Saturday, June 5. The first open house will be from 10AM to 2PM at the Soda Springs Health Department Building (55 East 1st South, Soda Springs, ID), from 3 to 5PM at the Grace High School (704 South Main, Grace ID) and from 6 to 8PM at the Bancroft school (322 South Main Street, Bancroft, ID). The public may attend any of these open houses.

The objective of the Caribou County Wildfire Mitigation Planning Group is to formulate a County-wide Wildfire Mitigation Plan for submission to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) through the State of Idaho Disaster Services. The County-wide plan is required by FEMA to qualify for Federal assistance in wildfire mitigation projects. The purpose of the open houses is to provide the public an opportunity to review the planning activities conducted to date, ask questions, and provide input and comments about their concerns with wildfires in Caribou County.

For more information about any of the open houses please contact Dennis Godfrey, Caribou County Emergency Services at (547-2583) or your local fire department.

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**Caribou County News Release**

**May 18, 2004**

## **Caribou County News Release**

**June 7, 2004**

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### **Caribou County Wildfire Group Begins Preparation of Wildfire Mitigation Plan**

The Caribou County Commissioners have formed a Wildfire Mitigation Planning Group to address wildfire hazards in Caribou County. The group held its initial team meeting in Soda Springs on May 11<sup>th</sup>. The group also held a series of public open houses on June 5 in Soda Springs, Grace and Bancroft to solicit public input for the planning effort. The objective of this diverse group is to formulate a County-wide Wildfire Mitigation Plan. The County-wide plan is required by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to qualify for Federal assistance in wildfire mitigation projects.

Developing County-wide wildfire mitigation plans is an approach recommended by the Idaho Statewide Implementation Strategy for the National Fire Plan. This strategy was developed in 2002 by a statewide working group, and signed by the Governor, Idaho Department of Lands, the Idaho Fire Chiefs Association, and other federal and state officials. Designing the plans to satisfy FEMA grant requirements will lay the foundation to obtain project funds to assist Counties in reducing their exposure and risk of loss to wildfire. The mitigation plan will identify and profile wildland fire hazards, assess the county's vulnerability to identified hazards, and develop mitigation strategies for review by the County Commissioners.

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The Caribou County Wildfire Mitigation Planning Group intends to meet regularly through September. For further information or comments on the project please contact Dennis Godfrey at 547-2583.

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**Caribou County News Release**

**June 7, 2004**



**Caribou County News Release**

**August 6, 2004**

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**Caribou County Wildland Fire Group Launches Internet Information  
Site**

The Caribou County Wildland Fire Mitigation Planning Group has posted an Internet site to provide information and status about the County-wide Wildland Fire Mitigation Plan.

The site is part of the Soda Springs web site and can be found at the address:

<http://www.sodaspringsid.com/index.asp>

The site will contain draft plan report sections, notices of public meetings, and links to other sites of interest about wildland fires.

The Caribou County Wildland Fire Mitigation Planning Group thanks the City of Soda Springs for hosting and providing technical assistance on the web site.

For more information about the Internet site please contact Dennis Godfrey at (547-2583).

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**Caribou County News Release**

**August 6, 2004**

**Caribou County News Release**

**September 8, 2004**

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**Caribou County Wildland Fire Group Posts Draft Plan on Internet  
Information Site**

The Caribou County Wildland Fire Mitigation Planning Group has posted a draft of the Wildland Fire Mitigation Plan on the City of Soda Springs Internet site. The site can be found at the address:

<http://www.sodaspringsid.com/index.asp>

Then follow the fire links to the draft plan.

The Draft Plan will be available for downloading or viewing beginning September 20. Copies of the plan may also be obtained by contacting the Caribou County Emergency Services office at (208) 547-2583. Comments on the plan will be accepted through October 1 and should be sent to:

Caribou County Emergency Services  
Attn: Dennis Godfrey  
P.O. Box 775  
Soda Springs, ID 83276

A public question and comment session will also be held on September 27, from 10:00 to 11:00 AM in the Caribou County Commissioner's Chambers at the County Courthouse in Soda Springs. The purpose of the meeting will be to answer questions about, and accept comments on, the draft plan. Questions about this public meeting should be directed to the Caribou County Emergency Services office at the phone number and address listed above.

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**Caribou County News Release**

**September 8, 2004**

## **Team Meeting #1**

On May 11, 2004, the Caribou County Wildfire Mitigation Plan project team met from 2:00-4:00 PM in the Emergency Services building in Soda Springs, ID. The objectives of the meeting were to:

- Review the objectives of the mitigation plan
- Organize and establish lines of communication
- Identify available data sources
- GIS data, fire history, natural resource information, etc.
- Begin identifying wild fire hazards
  - Location, extent of risk, type of risk, etc.
- Plan for public involvement
- Schedule next meeting

Attending the meeting were:

Allen, Josse	Caribou County Assessor's Office
Allen, Mike	
Birch, Keith	
Bjorkman, Norm	Soda Springs Fire Department
Bybee, Chad	ASCS
Conlin, Bart	Caribou County Commissioner
Conran, Kevin	Bureau of Land Management
Ferguson, Scott	Bear River RC&D
Godfrey, Dennis	Caribou County Emergency Services
Gosswiller, Don	Bureau of Land Management
Mattson, Jared	U.S. Forest Service
Parsons, Teryl	
Whittekend, Dave	U.S. Forest Service
Windholz, Thomas	Idaho State University

The meeting opened with introductions. Buck West then reviewed the meeting objectives and the purpose of the mitigation plan. During the objectives discussion Dennis pointed out that it was also an objective for the wildfire mitigation plan to fulfill the requirements for hazard mitigation set by FEMA. Buck noted that, while not a formal part of the wildfire plan, the FEMA requirements checklist is used to help guide the development of the wildfire plan to make sure it complies with FEMA requirements.

Buck next discussed the outline of the plan and what would go into each section of the plan (see attached slides at the end of this record). The schedule was also discussed.

The team agreed that communication via e-mail was acceptable and that distribution of draft sections and documents in PDF (Adobe) format would be the best way to transfer information.

Buck then asked the team to confirm the priorities for mitigation actions would be, in order of priority.

1. Protection of life,
2. Protection of property,
3. Protection of resources.

The team agreed that these should be the priorities used when evaluating the issues and the mitigation actions.

The team next discussed data needs for the mitigation plan. During the discussion actions were assigned or accepted by members of the team (see the Actions section of this record). The team identified several significant fires in the county over the past few years.

- Gentle Valley (2000)
- Enoch Valley (2000)
- Rock Knoll (this fire was actually in Franklin County but posed a risk to Caribou County)
- Hell Hole (2000)
- Tin Cup (1994)
- Browns Canyon (1996)
- Trail Canyon (2003)
- 90% (2001 and human caused)

It was explained during the discussion on fire history that Caribou County has not experienced as large of fires as other counties in Idaho. However, because of the fuel types, access problems and rough terrain, the fires in Caribou County are very difficult to manage.

Caribou has two formal fire protection districts: Bailey Creek (district contracts with the county for fire protection) and Freedom (does not contract with Caribou County for fire protection, but does contract with Thayne, Wyoming). There is also an unwritten agreement between Caribou County and Bonneville County for Caribou County to provide fire protection in the Wayan loop and the west side of Gray's lake along the boundary between the two counties. The county also has fire protection from the Soda Springs, Grace and Bancroft volunteer fire departments.

The discussion confirmed that there is no prevailing burn pattern within the county. The prevailing wind is from the south and fires on the Forest Service generally burn from West to East. However, the burn direction is mostly dictated by advancing storm fronts and they may come from any direction.

Multi-agency radio coverage is good in the county, but coverage for county services is problematic. Dennis is in the process of conducting a survey of the radio coverage for the county. That survey should be completed and available for this plan in the next month or two. There was a question about the Verizon and US Cellular cell phone coverage for the county, Josse said that he may have access to cell phone coverage areas and will check into that information.

The team discussed setting up display booths at the county fair (August), the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration in Soda Springs and the Bancroft Pioneer Days (July 24). The County Fair and Bancroft Pioneer Days will be too late in the schedule to be used for public scooping activities for developing the plan, but may be useful in distribution information and providing public comment about the complete draft plan. A questionnaire should be developed for handout at the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration. It was also suggested that the questionnaire could be sent out in power bills to county residents. Buck West was asked to develop a letter for the commissioners asking the power companies (Idaho Power, Utah Power, and Soda Springs Power) if they would include a questionnaire in their next billing cycle. Buck should also develop a questionnaire for gathering public input.

The team then discussed conducting public open houses to gather public input into the plan. The team agreed that the best date would to hold three public open houses on June 5 in conjunction with the Caribou County Safety Day. The schedule and location for the open houses will be:

- Soda Springs SEDHD from 10AM to 2PM.
- Grace Public school from 3-5PM.
- Bancroft public school from 6-8PM.

Dennis will coordinate the use of the school buildings and Buck will prepare a news release advertising the meetings. Each open house may include a brief slide presentation on the Caribou Wildfire Mitigation Plan purpose and organization and also a video on what homeowners can do to understand and protect their property. The bulk of the meeting will gather public input to the plan via a question and answer session either as a group or individually with representatives from the team.

The team then discussed the inclusion of representatives from the homeowners associations on this wildfire mitigation team. The team identified four associations in the county,

- Bailey Creek Homeowners Association
- Dike Homeowners Association (believe Carl Tupin is the president)
- Cedar View Homeowners Association (believe Scott Davis is the president)
- Valley View Homeowners Association.

The team agreed they the representatives should be invited to be part of this team. Marsha will check on the names and e-mail addresses of the association presidents and get that information to Buck.

The team concluded the meeting by setting June 29, from 2-4PM for the next meeting.

## **Issues**

- Need a formal agreement and boundary defined for the cooperative fire protection between Bonneville and Caribou Counties.
- Fire response coverage (who responds where to fires).

- Ability of the fire hydrants in the Pioneer subdivision to be able to supply adequate water volume to multiple pumpers should there be a large fire in the area.
- There is a concern about the defensible space around some of the homes in the Pioneer subdivision.
- Road accessibility and maneuverability for large trucks to respond to fires in the Pioneer subdivision.
- Numerous fire starts along the rail road.

## **Actions**

- Marsha will take the sign-in sheet and fill in some of the missing e-mail addresses for team members.
- Josse Allen and Don G. will coordinate on acquiring the fire history data from GIS and will contact the FS GIS coordinator in IF for the FS fire history data.
- Josse Allen will provide information on year, size (acres), and cause for the major fires listed earlier in this record.
- Dennis Godfrey will provide the results of his county radio coverage survey for inclusion in this mitigation plan.
- Josse Allen will check into coverage areas for cell phones in the county.
- Buck West will develop a questionnaire for gathering public input.
- Buck West will develop a letter for the commissioners asking the power companies (Idaho Power, Utah Power, and Soda Springs Power) if they would include a questionnaire in their next billing cycle.
- Dennis Godfrey will coordinate the use of the school buildings to hold a series of open houses as per the schedule identified above.
- Buck West will prepare a news release advertising the open house meetings.
- Marsha will check on the names and e-mail addresses of the homeowner association presidents and get that information to Buck.

## **Public Participation #1**

On June 5, 2004, the Caribou County Wildfire Mitigation Plan project held three open houses across Caribou County. The times and locations for the open houses were:

- Soda Springs district health office from 10AM to 2PM.
- Grace Public school from 3-5PM.
- Bancroft public school from 6-8PM.

A notice was published in the *The Caribou County Sun* prior to the events. The events were scheduled to coincide with the Caribou County Safety Day. Attendance at the open houses was very poor, with only one member of the public attending the Bancroft open house. Supporting the open houses for the mitigation plan were Dennis Godfrey, Kevin Conran and William West.

While the public did not attend the events it did allow time for the supporting team members to discuss some of the issues and potential mitigation measures. Items identified by the team members and public include:

- Fuel loads on CRP lands
- Wildland Urban interface
- Narrow, one-way roads
- Power Transmission lines (the fuses explode)
- Fuel accumulation and loads
- Need a chipper for use in cleanup days (Labor from jail work crews, Loan to other counties)
- Bury cisterns with stand pipes in low water subdivisions (charge developers \$ per lot for this (e.g. \$1000/lot)
- Post evacuation plans at central locations for sub-divisions (e.g. in a locked pipe at the entrance to a subdivision showing all home locations and indicating special need locations)
- Community cleanup days with county chipper or haul away slash
- Review the county evacuation plan
- Implement fire permit ordinance
- Mutual aid agreement between BLM and Grace VFD (note: The BLM has sought this agreement for several years with no success)
- Formalize agreements with Franklin, Bear Lake and Bonneville counties
- Locate additional county stations (where?)
- County needs another heavy pumper
- County needs a hose reel
- Redistrict the EMS boundaries based on the response times
- Identify helicopter spots with coordinates given to life-flight in advance
- Adopt the international fire code where achievable
- Improve the paging of multiple agencies for a fire (Develop a central dispatch for closest forces)
- Dissolve the Bancroft VFD and make it a county station #2
- Clarify the mutual aid agreements
- Educate the public on what is in a mutual aid agreement and what a responder can/can't do and when they may legally respond
- Upgrade or expand the facilities at Bancroft
- Relocate a county truck to Bancroft if the facilities can house it
- Additional training for the Bancroft VFD
- ISU model to use condition class instead of fuel load
- Pursue RC&D grant money
- Need a formal agreement and boundary defined for the cooperative fire protection between Bonneville and Caribou Counties.
- Fire response coverage (who responds where to fires).
- Ability of the fire hydrants in the Pioneer subdivision to be able to supply adequate water volume to multiple pumpers should there be a large fire in the area.
- There is a concern about the defensible space around some of the homes in the Pioneer subdivision.

- Road accessibility and maneuverability for large trucks to respond to fires in the Pioneer subdivision.
- Numerous fire starts along the rail road.

## ***Team Meeting #2***

On June 29, 2004, the Caribou County Wildfire Mitigation Plan team met from 2:00-4:00 PM in the Emergency Services building in Soda Springs, ID. The objectives of the meeting were to:

- Review the open house results
- Review, clarify and expand the list of wildfire issues/mitigations
- Sort the issues/mitigations list into 10 or fewer categories
- Prioritize the categories
- Make July assignments

Attending the meeting were:

Allen, Josse	Caribou County Assessor's Office
Birch, Keith	
Brady, Lance	Bureau of Land management
Conlin, Bart	Caribou County
Conran, Kevin	Bureau of Land Management
Godfrey, Dennis	Caribou County
Mattson, Jared	U.S. Forest Service
Swan, Bill	Bureau of Land Management
Welker, Ray	City of Grave VFD
Whittekiend, Dave	U.S. Forest Service

The meeting opened with introductions and then a brief review of the results of the public open houses. Only one individual attended the three open houses conducted on June 5. Since the open houses, two questionnaires have been submitted. Information on the plan will again be made available to the public during the county fair scheduled for early August.

Dennis Godfrey said that he had contacted the local cable TV station and they were willing to run public service announcements about the mitigation plan. Dennis has also contacted the Soda Springs webmaster and they have agreed to host a web site for the plan so we can distribute the sections of the plan as they become available via the web site. William West will follow-up on both of these contacts.

Kevin Conran, Josse Allen and Dennis Godfrey reported on the briefing they attended earlier in the day with the ISU GIS department on the status of the wildland fire model



they are developing. They reported that ISU is making good progress on the model and expect to have it complete by late August.

The team then discussed the issues list compiled from the public meetings, questionnaires, conversations with team members and other sources. William West explained that the list contained everything from identified hazards to potential solutions. The team briefly reviewed the list and added some additional ideas. They then went down through each item on the list and sorted the items into broad categories or themes. The results of that sorting process are as follows.

### **Fuels Theme**

1. Fuel loads on CRP lands
2. Fuel accumulation and loads
3. ISU model to use condition class instead of fuel load
4. Garbage, grass and tall weeds behind Smith paving next to Bear River.
5. Cut grass along roads where cigarettes might land.
6. Brush in and around Kelly Park.
7. Brush in and around Hooper Springs Park.
8. Allow CRP ground to be burned in a controlled burn every couple of years.
9. Mowing and spraying along roadsides.
10. Add the CRP information to counter balance the ISU model information

### **WUI Theme**

1. Wildland Urban interface
2. There is a concern about the defensible space around some of the homes in the Pioneer subdivision.
3. A wildland fire risk hazard severity assessment shall be performed for all structures and groups of structures adjacent to wildland fuels.
4. Include a specific map on the actual hazard areas with water sources and other information
5. Conduct an assessment on the Pioneer subdivision on the WUI interface

### **Roads and Access Theme**

1. Narrow, one-way roads
2. Post evacuation plans at central locations for sub-divisions (e.g. in a locked pipe at the entrance to a subdivision showing all home locations and indicating special need locations)
3. Review the county evacuation plan
4. Road accessibility and maneuverability for large trucks to respond to fires in the Pioneer subdivision.
5. Roads shall be designed and constructed to allow evacuation simultaneously with emergency response operations.
6. Roads shall be designed, constructed, and maintained to accommodate the load and turning radius of the largest apparatus typically used to respond to that location.

7. Any bridge on a road or required driveway shall be designed to accommodate the load of the largest apparatus typically used to respond to that location.
8. The load limit shall be clearly posted at the approaches to the bridge.
9. Roads, fire service access, dwellings, and commercial structures shall be identified by a consistent identification system that provides for sequenced or patterned numbering and non-duplicated naming within each jurisdiction.
10. All letters, numbers and symbols shall be a minimum of 102 mm (4 in.) in height, with a 12.7 mm (1/2 in.) stroke, and shall be reflectorized and contrasting with the background color of the sign.
11. Street and road name signs and supporting structures shall be of noncombustible materials.
12. Access to the property of the planned building group shall be provided by a minimum of two distinctly separate routes, each located as remotely from the other as possible.
13. Roadways shall be constructed of a hard, all weather surface designed to support the heaviest piece of fire apparatus likely to be operated on the roadway.
14. Every dead end roadway more than 91.5 m (300 feet) in length shall be provided at the closed end with a turnaround having not less than 36.5 m (120 feet) outside diameter of traveled way.

#### **Facilities Theme**

1. Power Transmission lines (the fuses explode)
2. Identify the gas pipelines for special attention during suppression activities
3. Locate additional county stations (where?)
4. Upgrade or expand the facilities at Bancroft
5. Numerous fire starts along the rail road.
6. Fires associated with power transmission lines

#### **Equipment Theme**

1. Need a chipper for use in cleanup days (Labor from jail work crews, Loan to other counties)
2. Community cleanup days with county chipper or haul away slash
3. Acquire a First response Truck (1,000 gallon tank capacity) for Bancroft.
4. Acquire a 4-door crew cab.
5. Acquire a 3,500-gallon water tender.
6. County needs another heavy pumper
7. County needs a hose reel
8. Relocate a county truck to Bancroft if the facilities can house it

#### **Water Theme**

1. Bury cisterns with stand pipes in low water subdivisions (charge developers \$ per lot for this (e.g. \$1000/lot)
2. Ability of the fire hydrants in the Pioneer subdivision to be able to supply adequate water volume to multiple pumpers should there be a large fire in the area.

## **Planning and Ordinances Theme**

1. Implement fire permit ordinance
2. Mutual aid agreement between BLM and Grace VFD (note: The BLM has sought this agreement for several years with no success)
3. Formalize agreements with Franklin, Bear Lake and Bonneville counties
4. Redistrict the Fire boundaries based on the jurisdictional response times
5. Identify helicopter spots with coordinates given to life-flight in advance
6. Adopt the international fire code where achievable
7. Improve the paging of multiple agencies for a fire (Develop a central dispatch for closest forces)
8. Dissolve the Bancroft VFD and make it a county station #2
9. Clarify the mutual aid agreements
10. Pursue RC&D grant money
11. Need a formal agreement and boundary defined for the cooperative fire protection between Bonneville and Caribou Counties.
12. Fire response coverage (who responds where to fires).
13. Camp fire restrictions.
14. We need a community mobilization network to bring in volunteers to fight fire with equipment and help neighbors with areas of concern.
15. The requirements for roof covering assemblies shall be as follows: 1) Only roof covering assemblies rated class A, B, or C shall be used. 2) The specific class shall be consistent with the wildland fire risk and hazard severity assessment as determined by the AHJ.
16. Vents shall be screened with a corrosion-resistant, noncombustible wire mesh with the mesh opening not to exceed nominal 6.3 mm (1/4 in.) in size.
17. Eaves shall be boxed in with 15.8 mm (5/8 in.) nominal sheathing or noncombustible materials.
18. Vegetation shall not be allowed within 3.038 m (10 ft.) of a chimney outlet.
19. As a minimum, the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) shall require anyone proposing to develop a planned building group to submit preliminary, working and as-built plans.
20. All preliminary plans, when submitted, shall contain, as a minimum, a site plan showing proposed water supply, roadway access, fire department access, and other items pertinent to the specific project.
21. Working plans, drawn to scale and signed by a licensed architect or engineer, shall be accurate and shall illustrate the final design of items required by this standard.
22. Drawings showing building floor plans, and fire protection systems, as-built, shall be submitted to the fire department upon completion of the project.
23. Any structure of a planned building group shall be separated from another structure by at least 9.1 m (30 feet) and shall be set back at least 9.1 m (30 feet) from the property line.
24. The authorized authority shall be responsible for the adoption and maintenance of a multi-agency operational plan for the protection of life and property during wildland fires.
25. Mutual assistance agreements shall be reviewed annually.

26. Fire permit ordinance has been passed and adopted
27. Fire response coverage is being compiled
28. Network analyst on the three primary response areas
29. Camp fire restrictions coordinated with Feds

### **Training Theme**

1. Additional training for the Bancroft VFD

### **Public Education Theme**

1. Educate the public on what is in a mutual aid agreement and what a responder can/can't do and when they may legally respond
2. Conduct a community-wide education program to educate the public of the dangers of wildfire in the area.
3. Urge residents to take responsibility in reducing the risk of wildfire and to create defensible space around their residence.
4. Increase awareness of the natural role of fire in rangeland ecosystems and the benefits of prescribed burning or occasionally managing natural wildfire to achieve ecological benefits.
5. Conduct an annual "Firewise Clean-Up Day."
6. Develop specific demonstration projects to educate residents about longer-term investments they could make to increase fire safety.
7. Educate the public on the use of firewise building materials.
8. Conduct landscape design workshops on firewise landscaping practices.
9. Train Boy Scout or Girl Scouts, 4-H, or other groups to present fire safety materials to school children.
10. Conduct educational outreach to farmers and agricultural professionals.

The team next prioritized the themes by each member indicating if they believed the theme to be of high, medium or low importance or impact on the objectives of the plan (protection of life first, property second and resources or values third). The number of team member placing a theme in a priority level was then multiplied by a weight of 5 for high, 3 for medium and 1 for low. This prioritization was a simple "straw man" indication of the relative importance of the themes. The results of that prioritization are as follows.

<b>Themes</b>	<b>High(5.00)</b>	<b>Med(3.00)</b>	<b>Low(1.00)</b>	<b>Weighted Total</b>
1.Fuels	0.00	7.00	0.00	21.00
2.WUI	4.00	2.00	0.00	26.00
3.Roads and Access	4.00	5.00	0.00	35.00
4.Facilities	0.00	2.00	0.00	6.00
5.Equipment	2.00	4.00	0.00	22.00
6.Water	6.00	2.00	0.00	36.00
7.Planning and Ordinances	8.00	0.00	0.00	40.00
8.Training	2.00	3.00	0.00	19.00
9.Public Education	9.00	0.00	0.00	45.00

In priority order the themes are:

1. Public Education
2. Planning and Ordinances
3. Water
4. Roads and Access
5. WUI
6. Equipment
7. Fuels
8. Training
9. Facilities

William West then asked the team if they would be willing to take a theme and review, refine and elaborate on the issues and mitigation currently in the theme. The assignment was to take each item within a theme and write:

1. A brief paragraph that clearly describes what the mitigation idea will be.
2. A brief paragraph that clearly describes the problem the mitigation idea will correct.
3. Describe where the action should be located.
4. List all Federal, state, county or private organizations that may be involved in implementation.
5. Clearly identify which agencies will have the lead.
6. When should it start and how long it is expected to take to complete implementation.
7. Estimate how much it will cost to fully implement the idea.

Team members were encouraged to add any mitigation actions they believe are appropriate to the theme. They were also cautioned to make sure that for every problem there was a mitigation action and that for every mitigation action there was a specific problem the action addressed. The following sections were assigned.

1. Public Education (Kevin Conran)
2. Planning and Ordinances (Dennis Godfrey)
3. Water (Josse Allen)
4. Roads and Access (Josse Allen)
5. WUI (Dennis Godfrey and Josse Allen)
6. Equipment (Jared Mattson)
7. Fuels (William West)
8. Training (Keith Birch)
9. Facilities (William West)

William West will send the theme information and instruction to the responsible team members by July 5, 2004. Team members were asked to return their sections to Buck by July 24, 2004.

The next team meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, July 27, from 2-4 PM in the same location.

The team then heard a briefing from Bill Swan on a proposed fuels reduction project the BLM is preparing for the Soda Springs Hills area. Bill explained the objectives of the project and the desire to involve the county and private land owners in its development and analysis.

### ***Team Meeting #3***

On July 27, 2004, the Caribou County Wildfire Mitigation Plan team met from 2:00-4:00 PM in the Emergency Services building in Soda Springs, ID. The objectives of the meeting were to:

- Review the assignment results
- Review any ambiguous ideas from the original list
- Plan additional public participation

Attending the meeting were:

<b>NAME</b>	<b>PHONE</b>	<b>E-MAIL</b>
Allen, Josse Caribou County Assessor's Office	(208) 547-4749	jallen@caribouco.com
Birch, Keith	(208) 313-3446	birchkei@ida.net
Conran, Kevin Bureau of Land Management	(208) 524-7602	Kevin_conran@blm.gov
Godfrey, Dennis Caribou County	(208) 547-2583	dengodem@allidaho.com
Mattson, Jared U.S. Forest Service	(208) 847-0375	jared_mattson@fs.fed.us
Parsons, Teryl	(208) 648-7305	teryl5@msn.com
Swann, Bill Bureau of Land Management	(208) 478-6364	wswann@blm.gov

The meeting was a general discussion of the assignments from the last meeting and general items of interest for the project. Meeting discussion points included:

- The Soda Springs Web master is Cory Unsworth in City Hall (547-2600). Buck West will contact Cory regarding placing a like and draft section on their web site for the wildfire mitigation plan.
- In the mitigation section of the plan we want to make sure we link vegetation manipulation areas on private land with manipulation actions on BLM and FS. This will create a much stronger case for both actions.
- Dennis Godfrey will be attending the Caribou County fair the first week in August. He will have a booth with wildfire mitigation questionnaires for the public and a sign in sheet where members of the public may request draft sections of the plan. Buck West will send Dennis a sign in sheet to use at the fair.
- Dennis Godfrey reported on a meeting with the Bonneville County Wildfire Planning team. During that meeting it was clarified that Caribou County will not provide support to the Bonneville/Alpine fire district because response times from Caribou County would be over two hours.

- It was agreed that Caribou County would provide support to the Wayan Loop in Bonneville County and that this needed to be documented in a formal agreement (this needs to be an action item in the Caribou plan).
- There was a question if there would be an issue with insurance coverage for Caribou firefighters when they respond to Bonneville fires. Dennis indicated there was no problem with insurance coverage.
- The Caribou County Commissioners have given standing authorization to respond to support requests within 50 miles of Soda Springs without needing additional specific authorization.
- Bill Swann will send Josse Allen GIS data on his proposed vegetation manipulation projects. Jared will talk to Dillon at the FS about the same information.
- Except for the ISU model maps, all maps for the hazard section have been completed.
- Kevin Conran discussed the potential for unplanned money for wildfire mitigation actions becoming available as the year progresses. Kevin requested that he and Dennis receive early drafts of the mitigation section of the plan (as they become available) ahead of the full section draft the rest of the team would normally receive.
- Stevens grant money is only available for vegetation manipulation activities on private land adjacent to BLM or FS land.
- The group discussed the need to have subdivision developers install water sources for firefighting as part of their subdivision development.
  - It was noted that Bannock is attempting to develop and implement new construction codes to address this issue. Bill Swann will forward to Dennis Godfrey and Buck West information on this topic.
- The group discussed the need to identify bridges with weight limits that may impact wildfire fighting activities.

Buck West then handed out a copy of hazard statement and mitigation goals that he had developed from the issues themes discussed at the last meeting. Those hazards and goals were as follows.

*HAZARD 1:* Caribou County citizens have had limited firewise education, information and awareness with regards to wildfire.

*Mitigation Goal:* Increase the opportunities and availability for the citizens of Caribou County to increase their knowledge and application of firewise activities and techniques to reduce the risk and impact of wildfires.

*HAZARD 2:* Caribou County lacks comprehensive planning and ordinances to adequately mitigate wildland fire damage within the county.

*Mitigation Goal:* Complete and integrate planning activities and develop and implement ordinances appropriate for the county to reduce damage to life, property and values within Caribou County due to wildland fire.

*HAZARD 3:* Caribou County has limited sources of water for fighting wildfires and many of those sources are vulnerable to disruption of service in the event of a wildfire.

*Mitigation Goal:* Provide additional sources of water at strategic locations throughout Caribou County and means of supplementing or replacing service in the event of disruption.

*HAZARD 4:* Caribou County has numerous roads and access restrictions that may limit or exclude access to, and suppression of wildfires.

*Mitigation Goal:* Improve existing access where feasible and plan new roads and access routes with wildfire suppression needs in mind.

*HAZARD 5:* Caribou County lacks defensible space and fire resistant building materials in some developments and at private homes in the Wildland/Urban Interface.

*Mitigation Goal:* Create and implement defensible space standards by homeowners and developments and utilize standard Fire Protection Guidelines for Residential Development in the Wildland/Urban Interface for subdivisions as identified in NFPA 1144, *Standard for Protection of Life and Property from Wildfire*, 2002 edition.

*HAZARD 6:* Caribou County has limited fire station locations and equipment that result in poor response times to fires in outlying portions of the county.

*Mitigation Goal:* Strategically place new stations to improve response times and improve coordination between volunteer fire departments and other emergency services to reduce response times.

*HAZARD 7:* Caribou County has numerous county roads, infrastructure, communication sites, developments, CRP land and communities that require hazardous fuels reduction.

*Mitigation Goal:* Reduce identified hazardous fuels buildup in high-risk areas on a countywide scale.

*HAZARD 8:* Caribou County volunteer fire departments are having difficulty meeting standards or requirements pertaining to: Training, PPE, Communications, Equipment, Apparatus and Facilities.

*Mitigation Goal:* Provide Caribou County VFDs with required training, communications, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), Apparatus, Facility improvements and equipment as identified in the Bear River RC&D Fire Department Assessment for Caribou County.

The group discussed each of the hazards and mitigation goals. Based on that discussion, Hazards 2 and 5 were combined and hazards 6 and 8 were combined. Wording changes were made to other hazards and goals. The revised list is as follows.



*HAZARD 1:* Caribou County citizens have had limited firewise education, information and awareness with regards to wildfire.

*Mitigation Goal:* Increase the opportunities and availability for the citizens of Caribou County to increase their knowledge and application of firewise activities and techniques to reduce the risk and impact of wildfires.

*HAZARD 2:* Caribou County lacks defensible space and fire resistant building materials in some developments and at private homes in the Wildland/Urban Interface.

*Mitigation Goal:* Complete and integrate planning activities and develop and implement ordinances appropriate for the county to reduce damage to life, property and values within Caribou County due to wildland fire.

*HAZARD 3:* Caribou County contains limited sources of water for fighting wildfires and many of those sources are vulnerable to disruption of service in the event of a wildfire.

*Mitigation Goal:* Provide additional sources of water at strategic locations throughout Caribou County and means of supplementing or replacing service in the event of disruption.

*HAZARD 4:* Caribou County contains numerous roads and access restrictions (including weight limits on bridges) that may limit or exclude access to, and suppression of wildfires.

*Mitigation Goal:* Improve existing access where feasible and plan new roads and access routes with wildfire suppression needs in mind.

*HAZARD 5:* Caribou County contains numerous county roads, infrastructure, communication sites, developments, wildlands and communities that require hazardous fuels reduction.

*Mitigation Goal:* Reduce identified hazardous fuels buildup in high-risk areas.

*HAZARD 6:* Caribou County volunteer fire departments need continued and ongoing infrastructure support in the areas of training, personal protective equipment (PPE), communications, equipment, apparatus and facilities to remain safe, effective and timely in suppression activities.

*Mitigation Goal:* Provide Caribou County VFDs with required training, communications, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), Apparatus, Facility improvements and equipment as identified in the Bear River RC&D Fire Department Assessment for Caribou County and strategically place new stations to improve response times and improve coordination between volunteer fire departs and other emergence services to reduce response times.

The next meeting of the team will be August 31, 2004, from 2:00-4:00 PM at the same location.